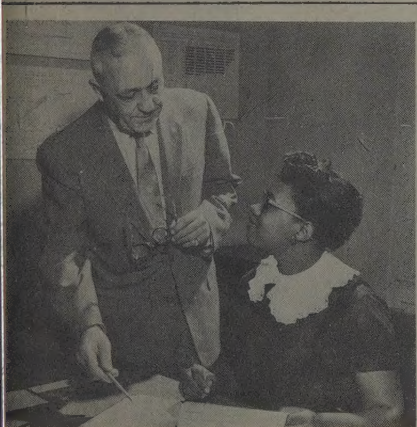




SOUTH SIDER AT HELM OF CHA ON JUNIOR OFFICIALS' DAY

When Chicago held its annual celebration of Junior Officials' Day on May 14, the post of executive director of the Chicago Housing Authority was taken over by Miss Jacqueline Perry, 16, a junior at DuSable High School.

After conferring with Lt. Gen. W. B. Kean, Jacqueline held consultations with all CHA department directors, discussing the various phases of their specific responsibilities. With "office duties" completed, Jacqueline made a tour of Harold L. Ickes Homes, CHA development at 22nd and State Streets where 803 families live in high-rise buildings. She also visited the project's community building, where Henry Booth House conducts an educational and recreational program for the neighborhood.

Jacqueline lives at 6449 South Greenwood Avenue with her parents and younger sister. She is a native Chicagoan who hopes some day to become a pediatrician. She was chosen for the days honors by the Woodlawn Center of the Young Women's Christian Association on the basis of her outstanding scholarship, character, and participation in community affairs.

FAMOUS ART PALACE TO GIVE WAY FOR NEW PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT

One of the strangest buildings in the United States, a landmark on Chicago's South Side, is destined for the wreckers' hammers to make way for a new public housing development.

The "Sphinx Kiosk," which has been the subject of many a colorful newspaper and magazine story, stands at 4044 South Oakenwald Avenue. It was built by Washington Porter, II, eccentric Chicago millionaire, to house an art collection at one time valued at more than \$2,000,000. To be certain that the structure would be unique, Porter himself worked with architects incorporating designs and art motifs of several ancient cultures. He described the building himself as "Egyptian with a touch of Italian Renaissance." Adjoining the Kiosk is a 150-foot tower intended as an observation post for the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. Although less than thirty years old, the structure which cost about \$350,000 to build is today a shambles.

The property the Chicago Housing Authority is seeking to acquire consists of a long narrow lot which runs from Oakenwald to Lake Park Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets. In addition to the Kiosk and tower, the lot accommodates along the Lake Park frontage the once stately Victorian mansion which was the Porter family home. Like the art palace, the home has also been victimized by the ravages of time. Sixteen families now occupy small units of the "housekeeping" type within the structure.

The Porter property is part of a 2.5 acre tract which the Chicago Housing Authority plans to redevelop with a four-story apartment building. Because the property is heavily tax delinquent, and because the current value of the improvements is so questionable, CHA anticipates the need for condemnation proceedings to acquire title. At that time, the value will be determined by a jury, and the award will be first available to satisfy unpaid taxes.

NEGLECT AND VANDALISM

The Kiosk and its adjoining tower represent serious hazards to the neighborhood. The walls are crumbling, and children run in and out of its broken windows and bashed-in doors. The floors are littered with glass and broken pieces

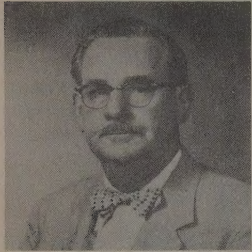
(Continued on page 2)



THE SPHINX KIOSK, 4044 Oakenwald Avenue, built by Washington Porter to house his million-dollar art collection. The structure, which cost \$350,000 to build less than thirty years ago, has been ruined by neglect and vandalism.

CHA BOARD RE-ELECTS SULLIVAN CHAIRMAN

Joseph P. Sullivan was unanimously chosen by his fellow commissioners to serve as chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority for a second term when the CHA board held its annual meeting on March 13, 1957. Sullivan, a retired



Joseph P. Sullivan

excutive of the Du Pont Company, was first appointed to the CHA board in 1953. He was elected vice chairman in 1954, and entered on his first term as chairman in 1956.

Martin J. Dwyer was elected vice chairman of the Authority, and to fill the post of treasurer left vacant by Dwyer, the commissioners selected Charles R. Swibel. The Authority's newest commissioner, Theophilus M. Mann was chosen assistant treasurer.

ART PALACE

(Continued from page 1)

of black marble which have been chipped from the once imposing columns. All lighting fixtures have disappeared with the exception of two glass chandeliers which still hang from ceilings too high for vandals to reach.

The transition of the Porter home and art museum from splendor to slum is repeated many times a year in other sections of Chicago where redevelopment activities are going forward.

Fine old homes, significant in the city's history, have been chopped up into small units. Operators of these often illegal conversions accumulate fortunes by renting these units to families who cannot find standard housing on the private market at moderate prices.

Sometimes the owners raze the old buildings to reduce tax assessments. Tax delinquency is common in run-down sections of the city. This means depleted income for the city and county, and costly administrative work in carrying the accounts on the books while attempts are made to collect.

A tract of vacant land on 58th Street was recently purchased by CHA. Based on independent appraisals, the Authority bought the property for \$15,000. When the purchase transaction was completed, the owner realized only a net of \$3,450. Satisfaction of delinquent taxes cost \$11,500.

The Authority's current land buying program encompasses property having an estimated value of some \$15,000,000.

PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS TAKE ACTIVE PART IN CITYWIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Mayor Richard J. Daley launched an all-out program to clean up Chicago during 1957, and CHA's executive director, Lt. Gen. W. B. Kean, pledged the full support and cooperation of the Authority's staff and tenants.

The ink was scarcely dry on the calendar of special events prepared by the Mayor's Citizens' Committee before CHA tenants were enthusiastically getting into the act.

Clean-Up Parade

While the Clean-up Parade has become an annual event in Chicago, the spectacle which occurred on Saturday, April 27, was like nothing Chicago had ever seen before. School children carrying brooms, mops, and brushes marched down State Street to the tempo of military bands. The Chicago Housing Authority projects signed up marching units from eighteen projects, including everything from "Little Leaguers" to mobile floats. Because of a heavy rain some of the smallest children had to drop out. Despite the bad weather, the parade was a huge success and thousands of Chicagoans witnessed their neighbors pledging their cooperation in keeping the city clean.

"Cleanarama"

One of the most interesting features of the parade was the appearance of "Cleanarama," a series of mobile units consisting of the latest street-cleaning equipment, fire-fighting devices and decorative floats all emphasizing the importance of a clean and safe city.

On May 15, Cleanarama made a tour of Grace Abbott Homes, Jane Addams

Houses, Robert Brooks Homes and Loomis Courts, the four CHA projects on the Near West Side. The tour was part of the Second Annual Community Grounds Celebration held at Jane Addams Park Field House that same evening.

The celebration was sponsored by the Near West Community Council and included all residents of the Racine, Roosevelt, Oakley and 15th Place neighborhood. Staff at the West Side CHA projects helped to organize the program and about 1,000 tenants were on hand.

Cabrini Homes Program

Frances Cabrini Homes and Extension are preparing for their own celebration on Sunday, June 16th. At that time awards will be given tenants who have the best gardens in the project during the 1956 season, and the 1957 garden program will be officially opened.

Cabrini has a real chance this year becoming a city show place, for several of the new buildings are occupied and landscape work has begun. It will be remembered that the contract for landscaping this project is one of the largest ever awarded in the Middle West. Some 17 acres of lawn, 10,000 shrubs, and 500 trees will be planted.

Citywide Tour

In the coming months all 31 of the Chicago Housing Authority's projects will be visited by "Cleanarama" and connection therewith each will stage its own local celebration.

Meanwhile, the Mayor's Citizens' Committee is at work with tenants of CHA projects, inducing them to take an active part in the campaign.



BATTERED DOORWAYS and crumbling stone create hazards for the children who play in courtyard of Porter "Kiosk."



CHA PURCHASE OF VACANT TRACT on 58th Street results in \$11,550 payment on delinquent taxes.



WARD WINNING BUILDING. . . The fourteen-story building at Prairie Avenue Courts, 318-unit housing development built by the Chicago Housing Authority at 26th Street and Prairie Avenue, won for its designers, George Fred Keck and William Keck, a citation of merit presented by the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Association of Commerce and Industry.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT SHARES IN CIVIC HONORS

Architects and builders who have made significant contributions to the redevelopment of Chicago were honored at the annual civic pride luncheon sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Association of Commerce and Industry on April 10 at the Morrison Hotel.

Six awards were presented for outstanding design in residential buildings. One of these citations of merit was awarded to George Fred Keck and William Keck for their work on the 14-story building at Prairie Avenue Courts, 26th Street and Prairie Avenue, built by the Chicago Housing Authority.

Since the project was first occupied in 1955, Prairie Avenue Courts has been the subject of many magazine articles and has been included in international exhibits as an outstanding example of modern architecture.

There are twelve buildings in the project. In addition to the 14-story structure, there are three 7-story buildings, and eight 2-story rowhouses. The project now houses 318 families. Still to be built are additional rowhouses which will add eight additional apartments.

REGISTRATION FOR APARTMENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING TOP 100,000 MARK

Records of the CHA Central Rental Office at 18 East Congress Parkway showed that at the close of business on May 15, 102,004 Chicago families had registered for an apartment in one of Chicago's public housing developments since 1949.

Despite the fact that new buildings on various projects are being completed each month, new registrations keep the Authority's waiting list at about the 1000 level. In the first three months of 1957, 800 apartments were available to new tenants; 260 in newly completed buildings, and the balance were units vacated by former tenants. During the calendar year 1957, the Authority expects to handle the largest leasing load in its history as additional buildings in the Cabrini Extension and Stateway Gardens reach the completion stage.

100,000th Family

CHA registered its 100,000th family for housing on February 26, while the issue of TODAY was on the press. John E. Chalmers, Jr., came to the office to be greeted by flashing lights and taking cameras. Their story is not unlike that of many other Chicagoans.

John is 23 years old, a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He and his wife Emma, 21, have five children, ranging in age from three weeks to four years. They live in a vermin-infested, deteriorated five-room basement apartment on the West Side. This dwelling costs them \$80

a month, exclusive of utilities. John's salary as an employee of the United States Post Office is large enough so that he can pay it, but it means there is little left for food, clothing, and the other normal expenses of living.

The Chalmers family has not yet been admitted to public housing. Just how soon they will be is problematical. With large apartments at a premium and a long list of families ahead of them, the Chalmers and their children still have a wait ahead of them.



100,000TH CHICAGO FAMILY REGISTER HOUSING NEEDS with CHA. G. W. Master, chief of Central Rental Office interviews the Chalmers family. Left to right: John, 4; Barbara, 1; Keith, 2; Emma and John Chalmers holding twins, Dennis and Denice.

STATEWAY GARDENS TO OPEN IN EARLY JUNE

One of the most impatient housewives in Chicago at this time is Mrs. Don P. Gibson. After making all preparations to move in May, the usual construction delays occurred which made it necessary to postpone opening Stateway Gardens until early June. Stateway Gardens is the CHA's newest housing development at 35th and State Streets which will, when completed, house 1,641 families.

The Gibson family will be the first tenants admitted. Don Gibson, 25, is a veteran, and an ambitious and enterprising young man. He works for the Electro Motive Division of General Motors in LaGrange, Illinois, and attends Wilson Junior College two nights a week. Taking care of two-year-old, Don, Jr., and three-month old Raun, takes up all of Helen's time.

The Gibsons are now living in one room on the first floor of a two-story house that has been cut up into small apartments. These quarters cost them \$12.50 a week. At stateway, they will be assigned a two-bedroom apartment, and based on Don's current income, their rent will be \$55 a month.

The fact that Don will have to spend a longer time getting to and from work and school doesn't bother him a bit. Both Don and Helen are enthusiastic about "pioneering" a new community where a park and school are right outside the door.

"For a family with small children, you just couldn't find a more ideal set-up," said Mrs. Gibson. The boxes have been packed for weeks, and she admits she's eager to settle at 3542 South State Street.

NEW GENERAL COUNSEL APPOINTED FOR CHA

Kathryn M. Kula assumed the post of general counsel for the Chicago Housing Authority on May 6, 1957, when she returned from her studies in Europe. Miss Kula has been associated with the legal staff of the Chicago Housing Authority since 1948, and for a period of two and a half years, from January, 1951 to July, 1953, served as acting general counsel. She took a leave of absence from her post as first assistant general

counsel last September to study so legislation in England on a Fulbright scholarship.

A native of Chicago, Miss Kula graduated cum laude from the College of Law of DePaul University in 1948. She is well known in legal circles and is one of the youngest attorneys ever to appear before the Illinois Supreme Court at Springfield. She is a member of the Women's Bar Association, the League of Women Voters, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Miss Kula succeeds Von Allan Carver who resigned.

CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENTS

March 31, 1957

COMPLETED

29 Developments—15,075 Dwellings

1. Jane Addams Houses	(F)	992
2. Julia C. Lathrop Homes	(F)	925
3. Trumbull Park Homes	(F)	434
4. Ida B. Wells Homes	(F)	1,658
5. Frances Cabrini Homes	(F)	584
6. Robert H. Brooks Homes	(F)	834
7. Bridgeport Homes	(F)	141
8. Lawndale Gardens	(F)	128
9. Altgeld Gardens	(F)	1,500
10. Wentworth Gardens	(F)	422
11. Dearborn Homes	(F)	800
12. Maplewood Courts	(C-S)	132
13. Harrison Courts	(C-S)	126
14. Leclaire Courts	(C-S)	316
15. Racine Courts	(C-S)	120
16. Ogden Courts	(C-S)	136
17. Prairie Ave. Cts.-I-II-III	(C-S)	318
18. Archer Courts	(C-S)	148
19. Loomis Courts	(C-S)	126
20. Phillip Murray Homes	(F)	500
21. Victor A. Olander Homes	(F)	150
22. Leclaire Courts Ext.	(F)	300
23. Grace Abbott Homes	(F)	1,218
24. Ida B. Wells Extension	(F)	650
25. Harold L. Ickes Homes	(F)	803
26. Gov. Frank O. Lowden Homes	(F)	128
27. Gov. H. Horner Homes	(F)	920
28. Cabrini Extension-1	(F)	396
29. Olander Extension	(F)	150

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

3 Developments—3,372 Dwellings

28. Cabrini Extension-I-II	(F)	1,525
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30. Stateway Gardens	(F)	1,641
31. Prairie Ave. Cts. Ext.	(F)	
IN DESIGN AND LAND PURCHASE STAGES		
28. Development-8,690 Dwellings		
17. Prairie Ave. Cts.-IV	(C-S)	
32. Rockwell Gardens	(F)	
33. Division-Ogden	(F)	
34. Roosevelt-Blue Island	(F)	
35. Site to be selected	(F)	
36. 32nd & Prairie	(F)	
37. 35th & Calumet	(F)	
38. 37th & Calumet	(F)	
39. 37th & Ellis	(F)	
40. Lake Park	(F)	
41. Oakenwald School Area	(F)	
42. 40th & Langley	(F)	
43. 45th & Champlain	(F)	
44. Pershing & South Park	(F)	
45. 35th & Cottage Grove	(F)	
46. 50th & Cottage Grove	(F)	
47. 62nd & Blackstone	(F)	
48. 51st & Calumet	(F)	
49. 57th & Wabash	(F)	
50. 63rd & Calumet	(F)	
51. 63rd & Indiana	(F)	
52. 63rd & Wabash	(F)	
53. 57th & Normal	(F)	
54. Lake & Damen	(F)	
55. Monroe & Campbell	(F)	
56. 38th & Cottage Grove	(F)	
57. 44th & Cottage Grove	(F)	
58. 40th & State	(F)	
(F) Financed with federal funds; (C-S) with and state funds.		

CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
608 South Dearborn Street
Chicago 5, Illinois

COMMISSIONERS

Joseph P. Sullivan, Chairman
Martin J. Dwyer, Vice Chairman
Charles R. Swibel, Treasurer
John R. Fugard
Theophilus M. Mann
William B. Kean, Executive Director

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